

TO: City Council
FROM: Brad Medrud, Community Development Director
DATE: July 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Interlocal Agreement with the Port of Olympia for the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment 4

1) Recommended Action:

Authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement with the Port of Olympia for the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment 4.

The agreement was recommended for approval on the consent calendar at the July 15, 2026, General Government Committee meeting.

2) Background:

Working together with the Port of Olympia and large group of stakeholders, the City is preparing the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with consultant assistance from ICF Environmental Inc. The HCP is required as part the City and Port's incidental take permit application with U.S. Fish and Wildlife for the Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher, the streak-horned lark, the Oregon spotted frog, and the Oregon vesper sparrow.

The goal of the HCP is to allow responsible growth to occur in the City, while providing superior species protection over what an ad-hoc, case by case permitting approach is currently providing. It is the intent of the HCP to cover all actions by private and public landowners that require City development approvals.

The HCP will allow operations and maintenance, recurring activities, and development to occur in some areas frequented by endangered species, offsetting any habitat loss with other, contiguous mitigation sites.

If the Bush Prairie HCP were not completed, development in a large portion of the City from small additions to single-family houses to larger development, as well as the City and Port's ongoing operations and maintenance activities would require individual HCPs and incidental take permits U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

The fourth amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the Port of Olympia for the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment describes how the costs for the HCP Phase 4 ICF Service Provider Agreement Amendment #1, which was approved for signature by the City Council in June 2026 will be shared by the City and Port in 2026 and 2027.

The General Government Committee was briefed on the service provider agreement on July 15, 2026.

3) Policy Support:

Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element Goal C-1: Support active measures to protect and enhance Tumwater's natural environment.

Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element Policy C-15.2: Protect, preserve, and restore habitats for species identified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive by the State or federal government, giving special consideration to measures necessary to preserve or enhance suitable habitat.

4) Alternatives:

☐ None.

5) Fiscal Notes:

The attached amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the Port of Olympia for the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan is funded in part by federal grants administered by WDFW and the City and Port funds.

6) Attachments:

- A. Interlocal Agreement with the Port of Olympia for the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment 4
- B. Presentation